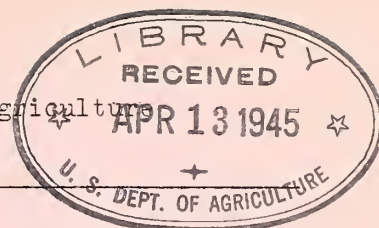


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WARTIME EXTENSION WORK

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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High lights of the week's summary: Accomplishments of emergency farm labor program; vigorous war bond sales campaign carried on by county agents and neighborhood leaders; numerous war activities of home demonstration agents.

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MONTANA

November 1, 1943

Farm labor.-During month 949 Mexican nationals arrived to work in sugar beet areas of State. Requests had been made for 1,875 Mexicans. In addition, 133 Arkansas workers came to beet fields. Since number of workers was only about half as many as had been estimated to be necessary to harvest beet crop in normal harvest season, fear was felt that part of crop would be lost. This did not occur because entire month, except 2 or 3 days in some districts, was ideal for work in sugar beet fields. Temperatures were not low enough to freeze any beets, and few storms prevented field work. Another factor aiding in completion of harvest was that crop averaged 2 or 3 tons less than a year ago. Crop probably will be fully harvested by end of first week in November.

In addition to labor for beet harvest, an undetermined number of negro and Japanese workers were recruited and shipped into State. Some districts made excellent use of high school students. However, most local labor, including high school students and any others available, was used for hand labor with crops other than beets. This consisted mostly of work with potatoes and some work in orchards in western part of State. Here again, exceptionally favorable October weather saw potato harvest completed without loss but with yields greatly reduced from those of a year ago.

Production capacity and goals.-District conferences of county agents were held during October to develop plans for 1944 food-production program. Neighborhood meetings followed, for full coverage of farm operators. Extension's participation will be based on answering question, "What can we produce most and best?" Specialists have worked with War Board committees on general program. Livestock specialist discussed "Marketing To Reach Livestock and Feed Balance" at two livestock association meetings.

OREGON

November 1, 1943

Farm labor.-Bringing emergency farm labor program to successful conclusion occupied much of county agent's time during September and October. In that period Mexican nationals completed contracts in Willamette Valley and were established in potato sections of central and southeastern Oregon. In handling Mexican workers, county agents organized and assisted local sponsoring committees, who worked closely with county farm labor committee, producers' groups, and USES, in planning disposition of Mexicans on farms in county. Agents took leadership in arranging with local officials and others interested for location of camps, and also made services of the office available to promote welfare and comfort of workers. This often meant taking definite and speedy action to get food, shelter, clothing, or emergency medical and hospital service. In last 2 months approximately 35,000 Mexican workers were assigned to peak-load regions as supplement to local labor.

Through efforts of Klamath County agent and potato growers' association, program to use soldiers in California portion of Klamath Basin was expanded to include Klamath County. More than 600 soldiers on extended furlough were important part of potato harvest crew in basin. County agents worked with schools to obtain orderly release of youths that were needed to complete harvest of potatoes, fruits, and nuts.

Peak labor loads and recruitment were passed during September and October, when county agents, cooperating with USES, placed 61,508 persons. This compares with 33,921 placed last year by USES with cooperation of agents on more informal basis.

Meat marketing.-Emergency marketing problems continue to make heavy demand on time of county agents. Regulations on slaughtering and marketing of meat animals have occasioned thousands of calls for information at agents' offices. Agents have aided war meat committees responsible for issuance of farm slaughter permits, and many have advised on permits for commercial slaughters. Present feed reserves are inadequate to care properly for record number of meat animals unless market is accelerated.

War bond sales.-Most county agricultural agents served on county war bond drive committee and gave considerable assistance in third war loan campaign. In about one-third of counties agents called upon neighborhood leaders to assume major responsibility for bond solicitations in rural areas. Some examples of this work: In Deschutes County 70 neighborhood leaders solicited more than 600 farm families. In Wheeler County, about 70 percent of rural solicitors were neighborhood leaders. In Lake County, agricultural agent serves as member of county war bond sales committee and took lead in keeping local leaders supplied with necessary information for their drive. County exceeded its quota, and rural district kept full pace with county as a whole. In other counties where rural sales job was not assigned to any particular group, neighborhood leaders either acted as solicitors or spread information on necessity of drive and advantages of investment offered, and assisted in making contacts between purchasers and solicitors.

War emergency work of women agents.--War emergency activities took major part of time of home-economics staff. Many home demonstration agents now serve on 9 or 10 war committees, as chairmen, secretaries, or members. Committees on which agents work include farm labor boards; county nutrition councils; war production boards; USDA War Boards, particularly pressure-cooker rationing committees; and salvage committees for fats, tin, and hosiery. They also report assisting with third war loan drive through neighborhood leaders; Red Cross clothing and canteen work; helping to define OPA regulations. In 3 counties, home demonstration agents participated in USO recreational program. In 8 counties they assisted vocational education workers in community canning centers.

Agents report cooperation with Red Cross in number of ways. In Josephine County, agent trained workers for 20 canteens organized last year. Two of these canteens were called upon to serve food to fire fighters. Washington County home demonstration agent is member of blood donor committee and assisted technicians and nurses on blood donor day. In Clackamas County, home demonstration agent helped Red Cross Camp and Hospital Committee to furnish and equip day rooms for Camp Adair and outposts. Jackson County agent conducted Red Cross nutrition classes for Army wives from Camp White. In Union County, home demonstration agent is chairman of county nutrition committee under OCD and chairman of Red Cross. This committee cooperated with library in furnishing nutrition material for display and reference use. In project work, food preservation again led. Demonstrations in canning, drying, freezing, and storing were given. Homemakers were helped with food preservation through radio, news articles, home visits, telephone calls, and office calls. Nearly 3,000 telephone calls dealt with food preservation.

Agronomy.--In Clackamas County staff prepared 7-page mimeographed circular on seeding and management of pastures under conditions prevailing in that county. Marion County agent prepared mimeographed circular on subterranean clover and its use in that county. In at least half of counties, agents arranged demonstration plantings of improved cereals, grasses, and legumes.

4-H Club work.--4-H Club achievement days and fairs were held in 10 counties during last 2 months. Training meetings for 4-H local leaders were conducted in 4 counties. Three counties had 4-H food preservation classes. County 4-H Club agents were active with county and district fairs during September. Because of war, nearly all of fairs in Oregon this year were devoted exclusively to 4-H Club work. Many fairs stressed Victory Garden exhibits. In Klamath County special Victory Garden exhibit was held. In October, major work of 4-H Club agents was in organizing and reorganizing for next year. Continued high interest in 4-H Club work is indicated.

Agricultural economics information.--Daily during September and October, except Sundays and Labor Day, two market news manuscripts were prepared and delivered to radio station KOAC for broadcast. These manuscripts totaled 225,000 words. Special attention was given to following price policies of USDA and OPA, and staff members concerned were kept informed of developments. Mimeographed market review abstracts continued to be supplied to county agents who requested this service. These went to 22 counties. Special market releases dealing with livestock, wool, ranges, and pastures were prepared for 9 county agents. Considerable time was devoted to county acreage and production data for Oregon agricultural labor report. County crop-labor reporting work was completed for season during October. Reports showing estimates of total farm labor requirements on crops and livestock by months in 1943 were prepared for counties.

